



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 11, 2006 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Tom Brower, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Jack Myers, Bert Benevinto, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laurence Connell, David Chen.

GUESTS: Watson Okubo and Laurence Lau (State Department of Health), George Melenka, Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Debra Stranbridge, Pat Lee (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Michelina Mayer, Mark Smith; Lt. P. Loudermilk, Detective D. Chong, Sgt. D. Nihoi, Sgt. R. Hamasaki (HPD-Waikiki Station), Capt. G. Komine and Fire Fighter Kaneshiro (HFD-Waikiki Station), Helen Carroll, Emily Reed, Brian Shimokawa, R. Nagamatsu, Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nisimoto's Office), Representative Scott Nishimoto, Jan Bappe, Laura Millman, Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Anne Stevens, Joan Naguwa (WCC), Cassandra Iccio (USO Hawaii), Daisy Murai, Lilli Jacobson, Sonya Lee, Keith Ishinaga (Board of Water Supply), Neil Gowensmith, Marily Verner (Imperial), Robert Herberg, Robert Kessler (WRA), Beth Harmen, Tyson Thomas, Kelley Barnes, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office/State Department of Health), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley announced the following:

1. Noted the passing of Board member John Kaimi. Among provided remembrances of Kaimi.
2. Presentations item Arluis Waikiki Wedding Chapel Project, will be rescheduled to a future meeting.
3. City and State officials will discuss the sewage dumping into the Ala Wai Canal during the Mayor's Office report portion of the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported for the month of April the Operating Account balance was \$647.74, the Publicity Account balance was \$1282.69, the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

7:07 p.m.

MOTION TO CONTINUE OLELO CONTRACT: Among moved and Flood seconded that the Board continue its contract for video taping for broadcast on Olelo. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Komine and Fire Fighter Kaneshiro, from the Waikiki Station, reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included 9 structure, 1 rubbish and 3 vehicle fires; 97 medical emergencies, 2 search and rescue, 7 water evacuation and 2 persons stuck in elevators. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. The safety tip for the month is "Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even for only a few minutes, turn off the stove. Turn off stoves and appliances promptly when finished and



unplug small appliances when not in use. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A 10BC) and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to a question from Flood, Capt. Komine reported that there is no requirement that there be a fire sprinkler over a building's trash dumpster. He noted that some buildings do have them, some do not, and others have trash dumpsters in a separate area from the rest of the building.

Capt. Komine and Fire Fighter Kaneshiro were thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Loudermilk reported statistics for last month are about the same as the previous month for most categories, and show a decrease in robberies and burglaries, but an increase in thefts.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to a question from Among, an investigation is ongoing regarding the man who ended up in the Ala Wai Boat Harbor and later died from infections.

Lt. Loudermilk was thanked for his report.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Keith Ishinaga reported the following:

1. There were no main breaks in the month of March.
2. When it rains heavily, our pumpage drops because people don't water their lawns, wash their cars, or do other heavy water consumption activities. While this can briefly cause water levels to rise, this does not indicate that there is more water in the aquifer, only that we are pumping less water from them. Usually, when the rain ends, the aquifer levels will go back to regular levels as pumpage rises to accommodate people using the activities they put off while inclement weather was occurring. During heavy rains there is always considerable runoff that occurs. Despite the runoff, rainy weather helps maximize the amount of rainfall available for aquifer recharge. Winter and Spring rains help to balance out the dry months we expect in the Summer. We should continue to be mindful of water use even during periods like these as the effects from them will not be immediately evident.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Regarding broken sprinkler heads, government agencies are responsible for those on their own properties.
2. Frustration was expressed about seeing sprinklers running while it is raining.
3. Water ponding problems on streets is not under the Board of Water Supply jurisdiction.

7:16 p.m.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION 2030 RAPID TRANSIT PLAN – Bob Kessler, Waikiki Residents Association (WRA), reported WRA opposes the plan which proposes an elevated route along Kuhio Avenue, and that they support other alternatives.

PARKING RESTRICTION ON ALA WAI BOULEVARD FOR STREET CLEANING - A resident complained that the "no parking" restriction on Ala Wai Boulevard for street cleaning lasts too long and makes badly needed on street parking unavailable for too long a period of time.

REQUEST FOR CROSSWALK – A resident presented the Board with a petition requesting installation of a crosswalk on Hobron Lane, near Ena Road. The crosswalk is desired to improve pedestrian safety in the area. The City Department of Transportation Services was previously contacted and replied that they will not install a crosswalk between two already existing crosswalks. Gruntz noted that the law which requires crosswalks to be 200 feet apart would have to be changed to allow this requested crosswalk. Among noted the request has merit.

IMPACTS OF INCREASED DEVELOPMENT - Other residents provided additional comments on the crosswalk request and noted that increased development, traffic congestion, and the ability of the existing infrastructure to handle the increase, is becoming more and more of a problem. Concern was expressed that the increased development is not in compliance with the Waikiki Special Design District requirements, and urged no variances be allowed from those requirements.

Among, Gruntz, Flood, and Meyers provided additional comments on adverse impacts of increased development, the Watermark project possibly reducing some impacts as it has fewer units than the building it replaces; and the need for the Board to be careful in its review of projects, especially when a project is changed considerably after it is presented to the Board.

NOISE AND CRIME PROBLEMS – Mark Smith noted that noise and crime problems are increasing in the Waikiki area and need to be addressed before it becomes worse.

7:39 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Rollman provided a background on the recent sewer main break and dumping of sewage into the Ala Wai Canal. On March 24, a 42-inch force main, which serves areas including Waikiki, McCully and Manoa, and eventually goes to the Sand Island Sewage Treatment Plant, broke under Kaiolu Street. The line carries 15 million gallons a day under normal conditions. The break required dumping of sewage for five and a half days into the Ala Wai Canal, amounting to some 48 million gallons. Alternatives, such as: a) shutting off the line would have caused backups into Waikiki buildings, and would have eventually entered the Ala Wai Canal, b) a by-pass line would have taken three weeks or more to construct, and c) use of tanker trucks would have required over 100 tankers every hour for six days, were considered. The only option was to pump the sewage into the Ala Wai Canal, other alternatives would have presented a greater threat to public health.

This line was constructed in 1964, and was in stable condition. The recent rains may have caused the soil surrounding the line to sag and collapse. A \$30 million project to replace this line is in the budget, part of \$240 million in sewer repairs for the current fiscal year, and an additional \$260 million is in the budget for the next fiscal year. Design and planning is almost complete, and includes rehabilitation of the existing line to retain it as a back up, and construction of a new line.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted this problem was due to money spent on other projects that were above ground, and not below ground like sewer lines, with the raided sewer fund moneys.
2. Peters questioned why no representative from the Department of Environmental Services was present, and Rollman noted that Eric Takamura, the director, was unable to attend this meeting.
3. In response to Myers, this line was one of seven, identified as high priority projects. He also expressed concern about the age and capacity of the line.
4. In response to Among, there was no alternative but to dump the sewage in the Ala Wai Canal, alternatives would have been worse.

5. In response to Benevinto, warning signs were posted along the Ala Wai Canal as soon as the dumping was started, waiting for testing was not done first. Benevinto also noted that the signs were too small.
6. In response to several persons, construction of the new line is not an emergency project. It was being planned, and the legally required process, including requests for proposals, bids, etc., must be used.
7. In response to Adams, the project could not have been done earlier by the current Administration as it took office having to use the budget proposed by the previous Administration and passed by the City Council. The project was proposed by the previous Administration, but halted due to community opposition about adverse impacts from the construction and other concerns. The project is now being done with the first budget proposed by the current Administration. It was not possible to do the project any faster as the legally required process has to be followed.
8. In response to Merz, the City is at the 10-year point of a 20-year deadline set by the EPA to make certain improvements to the sewer system. The new line will be built to meet anticipated capacity demands, the old line will be retained as a back up. Follow up will be done on keeping the Board updated on the status of the project.
9. In response to Apaka, it is unknown if nearby pile driving contributed to the line breaking. The new line is a three-year project, one for design and planning, two for construction.
10. Merz requested a presentation on the project when it is ready to go.
11. Erteschik suggested an updated presentation be made at next week's Waikiki Residents Association meeting.
12. Benevinto requested a timeline for the project.

Larry Lau and Watson Okubo, from the Department of Health (DOH) were present. Lau reported on monitoring and warning systems for sewage spills, and requirements on operators of sewage treatment plants to report spills and post warning signs. In this case, warning signs were posted along the Ala Wai Canal when the dumping began. Water testing for contamination involves looking for certain indicator bacteria as there are too many different ones to test for individually. Tests take 24-hours to complete so results are on what conditions existed 24-hours previously. Indicator bacteria occur naturally in the environment and come from sources other than sewage such as birds and animals. The City did initial tests and used float markers to track the contaminated water's flow.

With regard to contaminated waters, the DOH issues: a) an advisory, such as preceding rains that will cause runoff and contamination conditions, b) a warning, where signs are posted and lifeguards were warning beachgoers, and c) closures, where people can be arrested for entering the water. Closures are rarely used.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Among, the man who died from infections after falling into the Ala Wai Boat Harbor had a preexisting medical condition that put him into a high risk group for acquiring an infection. Also, warning signs are posted at the Ala Wai Boat Harbor.
2. In response to Peters about current health risks, bacteria occurs naturally in the environment, including the sand and soil, and in streams. Sunlight kills off the bacteria rapidly, and Waikiki Beach waters are safe.
3. In response to Myers, University of Hawaii scientists are performing tests of the water in Ala Wai Boat Harbor. Myers also questioned the adequacy and location of the testing sites.
4. Gruntz noted the contaminated water is now headed toward Diamond Head and took issue with DOH's past response to his concerns about pollution of the Hilton Lagoon which were not

addressed to his satisfaction over these past few years. No one has ever used any enforcement or give any tickets for that dirty water condition that they caused.. Lau and Okubo noted that DOH enforcement procedures take time.

Gruntz said Waikiki water stinks. There was no answer by DOR representatives.

5. In response to Brower, the City did take the proper steps relating to the posting warning signs, the monitoring program, providing data to DOH, and providing updates. It was also noted that the EPA is monitoring the City closely on this type of matter.
6. In response to Myers, DOH has overall water monitoring authority.
7. In response to Erteschik, DOH had jurisdiction over disposal of the material from the dredging of the Ala Wai Canal a few years ago, and is responsible for trash removal projects. Pollution from pesticides leaching from the soil and eventually reaching the Ala Wai Canal, continues to be a problem. Work is being done on funding for dealing with the pollution.
8. In response to Adams, DOH does not believe it is liable for not posting warning signs on the beaches as soon as some have suggested they should have been posted.
9. In response to Erteschik, it is believed that this sewage spill was the largest in the country in the last 20 years.
10. Chair Finley requested the Board be kept updated on this matter.
11. In response to Benevinto, disinfectants can be used on surfaces possibly contaminated by the sewage spill.
12. Senator Trimble noted he spoke with the Mayor on this matter and believes that the line break was not an accident, but due to neglect.
13. Among noted he does not want to see something like this happen again.
14. Representative Stevens noted that nature will clean up the environmental damage, reminding everyone that for years untreated sewage was dumped at sea. Stevens also noted that University of Hawaii scientists are conducting water tests in Ala Wai Boat Harbor and that that State will be cleaning Ala Wai Canal trash traps more frequently. In a related matter, she and Senator Trimble have introduced a resolution for the State to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of the infrastructure of Kakaako.
15. Representative Nishimoto reported there will be a community meeting next week Tuesday, Washington Intermediate School, 6:00 p.m., on the sewage spill and flooding problems.
16. Among noted he is seeking accountability in this matter.

Everyone was thanked for their participation in this portion of the meeting.

9:00 p.m.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE - No additional comments.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO - No additional comments.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The new Administrator for the Liquor Commission is Dewey Kim.

2. Councilmember Djou supports the Department of Parks and Recreation's cleanup of Ala Moana Park.
3. The Council passed a resolution for a study on the carrying capacity, including sewers, water, roads, etc., of Waikiki. It is not known when the study will be completed.

REPRESENTATIVE ANNE STEVENS – Erteschik took issue with Stevens' comments about letting nature take care of the sewage contamination. Representative Stevens noted nature, along with time and the ocean will take of man's mistake. She also noted that she and Senator Trimble introduced a resolution on the carrying capacity of the Kakaako area, Councilmember Djou's resolution is for the Waikiki area.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz, the final proceeds earned from recyclables collected during the recent community clean up project is pending accounting for the materials donated by two private companies, approximately \$1500 has been earned so far.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – No report.

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT PROJECT – Pat Lee reported four alternate routes are being studied, with two going through the Downtown Honolulu and Kakaako areas. Plans include a spur line serving Waikiki with three stations.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Merz requested artist's renderings of the routes in Waikiki, especially if it is to be elevated.
2. Gruntz and Among noted they did not want to see a loss of traffic lanes in Waikiki by the transit project, and that this sounds like (BRT) all over again.

9:15 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

E NOA TROLLEY SERVICE – Maki Kuroda reported on plans by E Noa Trolley service to provide free rides to residents in April, followed by \$2.00 one way fares in May. The Pink, Red, and Blue Lines' routes cover some of the same routes served by the former E-Bus route. Maps and schedules were made available for interested persons.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The Pink Line runs every eight minutes between 9:30 a.m. and 8:10 p.m., the Red Line runs every 45 minutes between 10:00 a.m. and 6:55 p.m., and the Blue Line runs every 45 minutes between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
2. Bunching of trolleys was noted and a GPS system is now used.
3. Proof of residency is required for residents to get the free rides.
4. Users would not like to see the loss of this route like what happened to the E-Bus route.

9:22 p.m.

SALUTE OUR TROOPS ON MAY 6TH – Cassandra Icidio, from USO Hawaii, reported there will be a military parade, May 6, beginning at Ft. DeRussy and ending at Kapiolani Park, where there will be entertainment and other festivities.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Peters noted there is concern about the increasing number of parades through Waikiki and the adverse impacts they can have.
2. The events at Kapiolani Park will run 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATIVE – Erteschik reported on the status of bills of interest including: a) one relating to revisions to the sunshine law, failed, and b) one relating to reforms to state liquor commissions, is stuck in the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Representative Sylvia Luke.

SMALL BUSINESS – Myers reported interested persons can check out www.igovnews.com, for information on the status of bills relating to small businesses, including: a) changes to the definition of a small business, b) duties of the chief procurement officer, c) small business bill of rights.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 14, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – The following corrections were made:

Page 1, under Members Present, Connell should be listed under Members Absent.

Page 3, under Honolulu Police Department, under question number 1, it should read “Gruntz expressed his support of the Honolulu Police Chief in his shift changes ...”

Page 3, under Honolulu Police Department, the last line should read “Acting Lt. Tomasu, Sgt. Sakamoto...”

Peters moved and Merz seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Chair Finley reported the following:

1. Regarding a recent proposal for a Halloween block party, he checked with the Honolulu Police Department, and they opposed the proposal due to manpower limitations for such an event.
2. Notice of liquor license applications have been received for: a) April 27 hearing on package sales request for Outrigger Beachcomer Hotel, b) May 11 hearing on transfer of license from Waikiki Beachcomer to Outrigger WBH LLC, c) May 18 hearing on dispenser general license at 2119 Lewers Street, d) June 1 hearing for Grand Prix World, Inc., 355 Royal Hawaiian Avenue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant

